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INTELLIGENCE PRODUCERS COUNCIL

8 September 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Robert M. Gates
Deputy Director for Intelligence

Richard J. Kerr
Associate Deputy Director for Intelligence

FROM: [REDACTED]
Chief, Intelligence Producers Council Staff

SUBJECT: SIG(I) Quarterly Meetings on Intelligence Priorities

REFERENCE: SIG(I) Meeting on 31 August 1982

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1. This memorandum identifies changes and new procedures that we believe are necessary to implement the new NIT process so as to make it useful to policymakers and the Intelligence Community. (U)

2. The document containing the 1982 Current NITs will have a foreword (see Attachment A) that mentions the elimination of the NITs of Continuing Interest and the initiation of the quarterly SIG(I) meetings. Attachment B shows the schedule of quarterly meetings and required actions. Attachment C describes these actions in more detail. All of this material is being coordinated with the IC Staff. Following their coordination and your review of the proposed changes and new procedures, we plan to send Attachments B and C along with further implementation instructions to IPC member agencies and the NIC for their information. (U)

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Attachments:
As stated

COVERING MEMORANDUM BECOMES UNCLASSIFIED
WHEN ATTACHMENTS ARE REMOVED

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SUBJECT: SIG(I) Quarterly Meetings on Intelligence Priorities

Distribution:

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DDI/IPC Staff [redacted] (3 September 1982)

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ATTACHMENT A

FOREWORD

This document contains the National Intelligence Topics (NITs) of Current Interest that were developed at my request from recommendations made by senior members of the US foreign policy and defense communities, and concurred in by the Senior Interagency Group (Intelligence) as guidance for use by the intelligence agencies of the US Government. These topics serve as a forum for policymakers to inform intelligence collectors and producers of critical needs for information and analysis and are intended to keep the intelligence effort focused on those countries and issues of greatest concern to the policymakers over the next nine to 12 months. The Topics of Current Interest, in addition to being narrowly focused and of immediate policy concern, generally address only those substantive issues for which added emphasis is needed in the short term. These topics and the Community's performance with respect to them will be updated and reviewed by the SIG(I) on a quarterly basis.

General guidance on issues that senior policymakers believe will be of greatest importance to US interests over the longer term—during the next five years—will no longer be reflected as in past years in the NITs of Continuing Interest, which are discontinued. Instead, such guidance will now be developed by the SIG(I) during quarterly review of topical categories and priorities contained in the attachment—"US Foreign Intelligence Requirements Categories and Priorities"—to DCID 1/2. The SIG(I) guidance will alert production managers to substantive issues for which added or new emphasis is needed in the longer term and will provide guidance changes in DCID 1/2 priorities.

William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence

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ATTACHMENT B

SIG(I) MEETINGS AND ASSOCIATED ACTIONS

<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Required Actions</u>
September 1982	<ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) DCI issues Current NITs and alerts Community to new process.(2) IPC and ICS work together to develop procedures to implement new process.(3) IPC alerts producers to schedule for SIG(I) meetings and expected input from production elements.
Mid-to-late November 1982	<ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) IPC prepares a list of suggested deletions and/or additions to Current NITs and a list of responsive CIA, DIA, INR and NIC publications for dissemination to SIG(I) members.(2) ICS proposes listing of priority revisions identified by producers since 1 September and submit with September edition of DCID 1/2 attachment to SIG(I) members.
December 1982*	<ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) SIG(I) holds quarterly meeting (1st week) to review and act on IPC and ICS inputs.(2) SIG(I) recommends changes in Current NITs and DCID 1/2 attachment to DDCI.(3) IPC amends Current NITs and disseminates updated listing to Community elements by mid-month.(4) ICS amends DCID 1/2 attachment as required and notifies Community of changes.
Mid-to-late February 1983	(Same ICS and IPC actions as indicated in late November except IPC will also prepare statements identifying significant gaps in US Knowledge on subjects highlighted in Current NITs and DCID 1/2.)

*Signifies date for quarterly meetings of the SIG(I)

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March 1983*	(Same actions as indicated for December 1.)
Mid-to-late May 1983	(Same ICS and IPC actions as indicated for late November except ICS will also conduct its annual revision (exclusive focus on lowering priorities) of DCID 1/2 and submit to SIG(I) members.)
June 1983*	(1) SIG(I) will review and act on results of ICS annual priority revision in addition to its review of the quarterly IPC and ICS inputs. (2) IPC and ICS implement changes recommended by SIG(I).
Mid-to-late August 1983	(Same actions as indicated for February 1983)
September 1983*	(Same actions as indicated for June 1983)

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ATTACHMENT C**SIG(I)/INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIP AND ACTIVITIES**

The establishment of a SIG(I) to meet quarterly to discuss current and longer term intelligence priorities as well as intelligence support for the policy process modifies the current NIT process and its relationship to DCID 1/2. The new procedures and the staff support required to implement the modified NIT process are outlined below:

1. SIG(I) Actions

- a. Review each quarter the IPC listing of suggested deletions and/or additions to the Current NITs; update the NITs as appropriate, and provide recommended changes to DDCI for inclusion in an updated NITs publication.
- b. Review quarterly the latest DCID 1/2 priority listing and proposed Community priority revisions, indicate agreement or disagreement with proposals, and submit to DDCI a list of recommended changes with accompanying description of rationale. (Modified DCID 1/2 listings would be provided to DCID 1/2 Committee for action and the narrative description of rationale for priority changes forwarded to the IPC for compilation and translation into long-term guidance for production managers.)
- c. Discuss and assess, in general, intelligence support for the policy process, and in particular, Community performance with respect to the Current NITs.

2. Staff Support for SIG(I) Meetings**a. IPC Responsibilities**

- (1) Prepare a list of suggested deletions and/or additions to the existing Current NITs and disseminate to SIG(I) members two weeks prior to each quarterly meeting.
- (2) Compile and disseminate (two weeks in advance of quarterly meeting) to SIG(I) members a list of appropriate CIA, DIA, INR, and NIC publications with each publication keyed to the Current NIT and/or DCID 1/2 topic.
- (3) Prepare, after each quarterly meeting, a listing of SIG(I) changes to the Current NITs for dissemination to IC components.
- (4) Prepare every six months for SIG(I) review a statement identifying significant gaps in US knowledge, referring as appropriate to current NITs and DCID 1/2 categories/subcategories. (Statements would also be disseminated to intelligence collectors and producers.)

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- (5) Monitor policymakers' statements justifying changes in DCID 1/2 topics and priorities and translate them, on an annual basis, into meaningful long-term guidance for producers.

b. Intelligence Community Staff (DCID 1/2 Committee) Responsibilities

- (1) Provide SIG(I) members two weeks prior to each quarterly meeting copies of the latest published version of the DCID 1/2 priority listings (matrices on regional categories and topics) annotated with priority revisions proposed by producers during the period since the last quarterly meeting.
- (2) Amend DCID 1/2 attachment to reflect SIG(I) changes in priorities and/or topics and disseminate changes to Intelligence Community.
- (3) Identify in May of each year those priorities that the Community believes should be lowered and prepare a list of proposed priority changes for dissemination to SIG(I) members two weeks prior to their quarterly meeting in June of each year.
- (4) Change DCID 1/2 attachment to reflect SIG(I) actions on Community proposals to lower priorities on DCID 1/2 topics.

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